

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/774,577

Examiner

Seyed Azarian

Applicant(s)

OOSAWA, AKIRA

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/18/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-3,5-7,9-11,13-15,17-19,21-23,25-31, 33-34,36-38,40-42,44-46,48-50,52-54,56-62,65-75 now renumbered as 1-59.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Response to Amendment

1. Based on applicant's amendment, filed 9/18/2007, see page 19 through 21 of the remarks, with respect to cancellation of claims 1, 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, 32, 35, 39, 43, 47, 51, 55, 63-64 and 76-77, and amended claims 70 and 73, have been fully considered and are persuasive, upon further consideration the rejection of 103(a) for claims 2-3, 5-7, 9-11, 13-15, 17-19, 21-23, 25-31, 33-34, 36-38, 40-42, 44-46, 48-50, 52-54, 56-62, 65-75, are hereby withdrawn.

The claims 2-3, 5-7, 9-11, 13-15, 17-19, 21-23, 25-31, 33-34, 36-38, 40-42, 44-46, 48-50, 52-54, 56-62, 65-75 now renumbered as 1-59 are allowed.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

This invention relates generally, to inter-image operation method and an inter-image operation apparatus for carrying out an inter-image operation, and to an image display method and an image display apparatus for displaying an image obtained by using the above inter-image operation method or apparatus.

Based on applicant's amendment, with respect to claim 70 representing claims 71-75, the closest prior art of record (Kano and Branson). Kano reference is directed to the field of computerized analysis of digitized medical images such as chest X-ray images, for example, which is used for the enhancement of subtle interval changes occurring between a pair of images corresponding to a given patient. Branson reference is directed to managing information in an endoscopy system, and in particular to controlling the acquisition, processing, storage, and display of endoscopic images. But do not teach or suggest, among other things, " carrying out an inter-image operation between two or more sets of base image data each representing a distinct base image of an identical object to obtain processed image data therefrom, recording history data on past inter-image operations, and storing the two or more sets of base image data and attaching the history data to the stored two or more sets of base image data, wherein the history

data is subtraction processing history data and attaching the history data to stored two or more sets of base image data comprises appending the history data to the two or more sets of base image data as header data.

These key features in combination with the other features of the claimed invention are neither taught nor suggested by (Kano and Branson) prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

Contact Information

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Seyed Azarian whose telephone number is (571) 272-7443. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 6:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Bella, can be reached at (571) 272-7778. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published application may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information about the PAIR system, see [http:// pair-direct.uspto.gov](http://pair-direct.uspto.gov). Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Seyed Azarian
Patent Examiner
Group Art Unit 2624
September 25, 2007

